Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, RINT, CY TU, PEPR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE ADMINISTRA-
TION'S ASSISTANCE PROPOSALS FOR GREECE AND TURKEY

1. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AT THE
PRESS CONFERENCE OF CONGRESSMEN BRADEMAS, ROSENTHAL, BIAGGI
AND SENATORS SARBANES AND EAGLETON APRIL 5.
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2. FYI: WHAT FOLLOWS IS A VERY TRUNCATED SUMMARY OF A
LENGTHLY AND COMPLEX PRESS CONFERENCE. IT SHOULD NOT BE
TREATED AS A TRANSCRIPT AS BOTH THE QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS WERE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THE SUMMARY GIVEN
BELOW. END FYI.

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3. Q. HOW DO YOU DEFINE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS?
A. (SARBANES) PROGRESS ON CYPRUS WOULD BE THE RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION WITH A FAIR AND JUST SETTLEMENT. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO MOVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION.

Q. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS FOR SUCH A SETTLEMENT?
A. (SARBANES) A RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION.
(BRADEMAS) I REFER YOU TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT MADE AS A CANDIDATE FOR A LISTING OF SUCH CONDITIONS.
Q. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE ARGUMENT THAT THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT?
A. (SARBANES) WE MUST REMEMBER THAT A STRONG NATO NEEDS BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE. I OPPOSED US ARMS SALES TO THE GREEK JUNTA. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT USED THE EMBARGO TO PROMOTE A SETTLEMENT, THEY HAVE INSTEAD BEEN SENDING CONFLICTING SIGNALS.
(BRADEMAS) AS EXAMPLES OF THOSE SIGNALS WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT DOD HAS BEEN USING NAMSA TO SUPPLY TURKEY. THE ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS REQUEST FOR TURKEY LAST YEAR WAS HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA HAS GIVEN INTERVIEWS TO THE PRESS ATTACKING BOTH THE EMBARGO AND CONGRESS. SIMILAR STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY US MILITARY OFFICIALS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
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CYPRUS IS BOTH INACCURATE AND FALSE. IN THIS YEAR'S SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUEST, FMS SALES TO TURKEY HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL, WHILE THOSE FOR GREECE HAVE BEEN REDUCED. DESPITE ADMINISTRATION RHETORIC THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN UNDERCUT.
(SARBANES) I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WE DID NOT MOVE TO INVOKE THE EMBARGO AFTER THE FIRST TURKISH INVASION. THAT INVASION WAS PROVOKED BY A COUP SUPPORTED BY THE GREEK JUNTA WHICH WE OPPOSED. WE ONLY MOVED TO INVOKE THE EMBARGO AFTER THE AUGUST 1974 AGGRESSION BY TURKEY. THE EMBARGO IMPOSED BY CONGRES; REPRESENTS ONLY A REQUIREMENT TO ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS AND WAS RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

Q. WHAT LEVEL OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT DO YOU HAVE FOR YOUR POSITION AND WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
A. (BRADEMAS) WE ARE GAINING SUPPORT.
(ROSENTHAL) IN THE HOUSE A MAJORITY SUPPORTS US. IN THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE IT IS ABOUT EVEN. A VOTE WOULD DEPEND ON THE LEGISLATIVE VEHICLE WERE CHOSEN THERE WOULD BE MORE PARLIAMENTARY DEVICES AVAILABLE TO OPPOSE IT. I BELIEVE INCREASING NUMBERS IN

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THE COMMITTEE WILL REFLECT CURRENT US PUBLIC OPINION ON THIS ISSUE AS REPRESENTED BY T;E NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL OF MARCH 31.

Q. THE PRESIDENT HAS SEVERAL DIFFICULT ISSUES ON THE HILL, INCLUDING PANAMA AND MIDDLE EAST ARMS SALES. IS THERE A LINKAGE BETWEEN THOSE ISSUES AND THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO?
A. (SARBANES) NO. THERE IS NO LINKAGE. I WORKED VERY HARD ON PANAMA AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

Q. YOUR POSITION CREATES AN INDIRECT LINKAGE WITH ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL.
A. (ROSENTHAL) THAT IS NOT A COMPARABLE SITUATION. THE UNCLASSIFIED

ISRAELI ACTION IN LEBANON WAS APPROPRIATE RETALIATION. WE DID NOT ASK THAT THE EMBARGO BE APPLIED TO TURKEY AFTER THE FIRST INVASION, ONLY AFTER THE SECOND ONE. AN ILLEGAL OCCUPATION HAS EXISTED ON CYPRUS FOR FOUR YEARS. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT A SIMILAR SITUATION WILL EXIST IN LEBANON.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT ON THE SENTENCES HANDED OUT YESTERDAY FOR THE MURDER OF THE EGYPTIAN NEWSPAPERMAN?
A. (SARBANES) CYPRUS HAS AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY WHICH HAS REACHED A DECISION. I WILL NOT COMMENT ON THAT DECISION.

Q. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THE DECISION TO PAROLE THE MURDERER OF THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR?
A. (SARBANES) ONCE AGAIN IT WAS A DECISION BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY.

Q. YOU STATED THAT NATO NEEDS BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, WILL TURKEY CONTINUE TO COOPERATE?
A. (ROSENTHAL) TURKEY MUST DECIDE WHERE IT, FUTURE LIES. (BRADEMAS) WE HAVE TRIED TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT TIME TO ASSIST IN FINDING A SOLUTION ON CYPRUS.

Q. WHAT ASSURANCES HAS TURKEY GIVEN ON CYPRUS?
A. (SARBANES)THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT KNOW WHAT PROPOSALS WILL BE MADE; IN TALKS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, I DO NOT COME AWAY HOPEFUL.

Q. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TERRITORY WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO DROP YOUR OPPOSITION TO LIFTING THE EMBARGO?
A. (SARBANES) THAT IS NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE. IT IS UP TO
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THE TWO PARTIES INVOLVED TO ARRIVE AT A SETTLEMENT.

Q. ADMINISTRATION THINKING APPEARS TO BE THAT ACTION ON CYPRUS WILL COME AFTER LIFTING THE EMBARGO.
A. (SARBANES) IT IS NOT UP TO US TO WRITE SPECIFICS.

Q. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION ON THIS ISSUE?
A. (EAGLETON) WE HAVE CONSULTED REPEATEDLY WITH THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR OFFICIALS.

Q. IS IT YOUR INTENTION TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BROKEN HIS CAMPAIGN PROMISES?

A. (BRADEMAS) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS BEING DECEPTIVE OR MISLEADING WITH THOSE PROMISES BUT IT IS BETTER TO KEEP CAMPAIGN PROMISES.
(ROSENTHAL) THE PRESIDENT BELIEVED AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH ADVISORS THAT HIS STATEMENTS DURING THE CAMPAIGN WERE APPROPRIATE. HE NOW FINDS IN OFFICE, THAT THE SITUATION IS VERY DIFFICULT, AS WE ALL KNEW IT WAS. THE US IS BEING INTIMIDATED BY ECEVIT'S THREATS NOT TO ATTEND THE NATO SUMMIT. SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS ARE GIVING ERRONEOUS ADVICE TO THE PRESIDENT. VANCE

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